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**S.A. GROUP
NEWSLETTER**



Guess who?

Historical Radio Society of Australia Inc. – S.A. Group

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Forthcoming Meetings (some are tentative)

Sunday 27 th October	Portable Radio Show and Tell at St Cyprian's Hall
Sunday 24 th November	Auction at St. Cyprian's Hall
Sunday 14 th December	Christmas Dinner at the Maid of Auckland
Sunday 19 th January	Sale Day at St. Cyprian's
Sunday 23 rd February	Crystal Set display at St Cyprian's
Sunday 15 th March	Instructional day
Sunday 29 th March	Auction at St. Cyprian's
Sunday 26 th April	Visit to the ETSA Museum to identify their radios.
Sunday 31 st May	One valve or one transistor radio project.
Sunday 28 th June	Visit to the National Military Vehicle Museum at Edinburgh
Sunday 26 th July	AGM and auction.

Retiree's Luncheons

Luncheons are held for retirees and those that can escape work at the Bickingham Arms Hotel (for the time being) on the corner of Walkerville Terrace and Northcote Street, Gilberton. Meeting time is 1200 for a 1230 luncheon. All members, including those from interstate, are welcome. Forthcoming luncheons are:

Wednesday 13th November 2019
Wednesday 8th January 2020
Wednesday 11th March 2020
Wednesday 13th May 2020
Wednesday 8th July 2020

Committee Meetings

The tentative dates for the committee meetings are given, not that you are expected to attend, but if you have anything that you wish to have discussed by the committee. The dates are 31st October, 23rd January, 19th March and 24th May.

Front Cover

I usually follow the rule not to repeat front covers, however there is always the exception to the rule, and as you read through this Newsletter, you will see why. From memory, I took the photograph when Phil Storr was Editor and it appeared on the cover of Volume 22 No. 3 of November 2011. Following a meeting at Craig Jackson's place in Strathalbyn, while 'messing around", John Cox hopped on Craig's motorbike and Elizabeth followed. To make the photograph look more authentic, I seem to recall that Craig produced a couple of helmets. The motorbike remained motionless throughout the ordeal. I also seem to recall John had a motorbike in his younger days, and Elizabeth would ride on the pillion seat, hence the interest in setting up the photograph.

Editorial

This tribute edition of the Newsletter would not be complete without congratulating John and Elizabeth on both their Golden Wedding Anniversary and becoming South Australia's first Life Members of the H.R.S.A. Thank you to our President, Chris Ratcliff, and Secretary, Ian Smyth, for preparing such a detailed story, supported by copious photographs.

A story that follows shows why I do not like shopping at the huge chain of hardware shops that dominates the market. I am undertaking a task for which I want to use quite long dowels, so, assuming we are now in the metric world, try to buy some 10 mm diameter dowelling. No, I have to buy 9.5 mm dowelling, a carry over from the imperial days of using $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. As it turns out the difference is only 0.025 mm or 0.001 of an inch, far less than the error in drilling in timber. So I approach my local hardware store, Randall's on Prospect Road, no dowelling drills. I try Bunnings, the next closest. Served by a young guy, probably a university student, we search the drills and no wood drills of the correct size. In desperation, I return to Randall's for some advice, Carbatec on Magill Road will have what you want. No 9.5 mm dowelling drills in stock. In total frustration I decide on reverse engineering. Does anyone stock 10 mm dowelling? A Google search immediately leads me to Bunnings and a 9.5 mm dowelling drill. I return to Churchill Road, find the dowelling accessories without assistance, at the other end of the tool section and an adequate supply of dowelling drills. How I yearn for the "good old days" not so long ago, when I had 5 hardware stores within a few kilometres, staffed with personnel that knew the hardware business.

I make mention of 0.001 of an inch. Those bought up in the imperial days will know it as one thousandth of an inch or more commonly, 'one thou'. Machine tools, such as lathes and mills, were generally calibrated in 'mils', which were equal to 'thous'. So when you hear people talking about 'x mils' of rain, do they really mean thousandths of an inch or tenths of a point? Australians' sloppy use of the English language!

Presidents Report

Greetings, from our President Chris Ratcliff,

Fellow collectors, we have had a good two months since the last newsletter. The "Amplifier & HiFi" meeting in August was very well attended and enjoyed by all. The September meeting at Warren Lane's home was also well attended and enjoyed. Being able to share the celebration of Elizabeth and John Cox's 60th wedding anniversary at our meeting was an added highlight! Both of these meetings really showcased the range and technical skills of our members. At this point I would like to thank those members who brought their amplifiers along for operational display.

The next meeting also has a theme – “Portable Radios”. For our purposes, a portable radio is one that was designed to be moved about but is not limited to battery operated sets! If it’s mains operated but with handles, it qualifies!! So, dust off a couple of favourites from your collection and bring them along.

Please remember the Christmas luncheon that’s coming up on the 17th of December at the *Maid of Auckland Hotel* on South Road at Edwardstown. The cost to members and partners is \$15.00 per head. See John Crawford for payments, for the luncheon and any still outstanding membership fees.

See you at the next meeting, Christopher.

Congratulations! Elizabeth and John Cox

First South Australian Life Members of the HRSA

As many of you will be aware, it was announced at the recent 2019 AGM that our two stalwarts, Elizabeth and John Cox have both been awarded Life Membership of the HRSA for their outstanding service, dedication and leadership to the club in SA since it was founded. Recently, Chris Ratcliff called in to have a chat with Elizabeth and John, to find out a bit about them, and to take a few photos of their collection.



LEFT: John and Elizabeth Cox

From their faces, when you talk with them you can see that they're still very much in love with each other.



ABOVE: Have a look at the magnificent Philips "inclined dial" Mantle radio on the top of this pair of beautifully restored radios in the Living Room.



LEFT: By the window is a collection of interesting portable radios.

Did you know that they met in jail?

...More about that later, so read on...

Some background about Elizabeth:

Elizabeth came to Australia (on her own) in January 1956 at the age of 17 from Leeds in Yorkshire, UK. Upon first arrival, she lived for a while in Angas Street in the city at a Salvation Army Hostel. Soon after, she moved out to Gawler as she got a trainee-job working with the Post Master General's Department (P.M.G) working as a switch-board operator. Elizabeth had to take classes at the Gawler Institute as part of her training to learn how to speak Australian!!

Think of it! When you lifted the hand-piece (no dialling in those days out at Gawler) the Exchange would answer and the operator would ask "Number please", so you may have had Elizabeth as your connection operator at the exchange!

After a year, because of the awkward train timetables between Gawler and Salisbury for Sunday shifts especially, Elizabeth handed in her resignation.

Her next adventure began (while still living in Gawler) was at Gerard Industries where she learned soldering and working with printed circuit boards and stayed there until 1961.

Elizabeth then moved to the Weapons Research Establishment (WRE) at Salisbury where she worked on radio manufacturing until she was moved to the Apprenticeship Training School and had to leave. Why did she have to leave?? - you may well ask!! It was because she was engaged to be married and, in those days, married women were regarded as unreliable. Many companies and many government departments had policies about female employees in those days. Women had to resign when they were engaged or married because it was assumed, that family duties were bound to follow!! *[The reason was not really based on reliability. It was assumed that once married, women would be house bound bringing up a family and it was considered better for more families to have one person in work, thus providing employment opportunities for single women, widows and divorcees. In other words, to promote one income households to create more people in work. Ed.]* Elizabeth then went on to become an employee of Medibank where she worked as a switchboard operator. She finally retired from the workforce in 1986.



ABOVE LEFT: John and Elizabeth together in the kitchen of their unit.

ABOVE: A Philips portable radio that John purchased brand-new from Philips in 1963-64.

LEFT: A closer snapshot of John and Elizabeth's pink Healing kitchen radio.

Some background about John:

John tells us that he was born at 1:45am on Sunday 25th June 1933 at the Queen Victoria Maternity Hospital, on Fullarton Road at Rose Park opposite the Victoria Park Racecourse.

He skipped the details of his childhood and began the story of his working life as a First-year apprentice at Mayfield's in 1950. He finished his apprenticeship there and left in 1959 to start work with A.V. Roe at the Weapons Research Establishment (WRE) at Salisbury, as an Electrical Laboratory Assistant at the princely sum of 18 pounds 15 shillings per week. John stayed at WRE until 1963.

His next job was at Philips, Hendon, in the Communications Lab (T.C.A.) in 1963 and 64, but it wasn't for long as he went back to the W.R.E. at Salisbury to the Central Test House. However, that too didn't last for long as he moved to the Navy Department in 1968, and into weapons testing. The final testing of the E.M.I.E.'s "IKARA" Missile System in which John was involved, drew the attention of the American Government. The missile proved to be a winner, but the Americans never went ahead with the purchase.

John retired from full-time work in 1981.



ABOVE: More of the collection - note the white Astor Football and the white Astor Mickey



ABOVE: A beautifully restored Console radio with a particularly attractive Octagonal dial.

On top of the Console is an AWA clock-radio that John purchased new from AWA. The clock, and the radio are both still working.

LEFT UPPER and LOWER: Model aircraft are also part of John and Elizabeth's collection.

They met in Prison!

During the early to mid 1960's the Yatala Labour Prison used to have regular dances at the prison and often, people from outside were invited to attend these social gatherings! One particular Saturday night, unbeknown to both Elizabeth and John, friends took them to the dance where they were introduced to each other. John and Elizabeth were married on 20th September 1969, so this year, they are celebrating their Golden Wedding Anniversary - 50 years together!!



ABOVE: HMV Portable valve radio, battery/electric. Behind is a Stromberg Carlson portable radio (centre) and an AWA portable (left) and a Kriesler "Beehive" (on the right)

RIGHT: In this photo, a green Astor DLP and a couple of other portables. Below the Astor is a PYE, which John thinks is the better performer!

BELOW: Where it all happens, John's work bench.



RIGHT: John hard at work at his work bench!

John and Elizabeth, we salute you. Congratulations on your Life Memberships. You are friends to one and all and your commitment to us is absolutely outstanding.



Photo Gallery



TOP LEFT: Greg Lamey extolling the virtues of his amplifier at the August meeting.

TOP RIGHT: Graham Dicker in earnest presentation mode in August.

BELOW LEFT: One of the smaller retirees' luncheons at The Buck in September

BELOW RIGHT: Further discussions at the August meeting at St. Cyprian's.



LEFT and BELOW: The large attendance at the September meeting intently listens to the Treasurer's report. The venue is Warren Lane's home.



RIGHT: Can you guess who the clown is? He is a H.R.S.A.-S.A. Group committee person. Those living in the Eastern suburbs of Adelaide are ineligible to guess. Thanks to Rob Olding for the photograph.

